bring down the capital costs in these ventures; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The policy to encourage greater private sector participation in the Indian Power Sector was announced in 1991. Various suggestions from private power developers and state governments have been received since 1991 for streamlining the development of the private sector power schemes including suggestions for concessions etc.

(b) Out of the 92 private sector power projects being monitored by the Ministry of Power and requiring the techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority, only 11 projects have so far achieved financial closure. As per information available, the main reason for most of the projects not achieving financial closure is the reluctance by the lenders in releasing funds in the backdrop of difficulties being faced by the promoters in securing a credible security cover such as allocation of escrow cover and also finalising a bankable fuel supply/transportation agreement. Government has not perceived the lack of fiscal concessions and leasing option for equipment as being a major constraint for achievement of financial closure.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Power from Pakistan

2603. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed power transfer scheme from Pakistan;

(b) whether there is any existing transmission line for power import from Pakistan;

(c) whether any new transmission line/ sub station is to be constructed for this purpose;

(d) if so, the length of the transmission line, its capacity, transmission voltage and its cost;

(e) the tariff of this imported power and mode of payment; and

(f) the names of the States to which these power will be supplied?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (f) Technical level discussions were held at Islamabad on November, 25-26, 1998 between the two countries on purchase of power from Pakistan. It was agreed during the discussions that the next round of discussions would be held in New Delhi on mutually convenient dates for consideration and in-principle agreement in the power export possibility identified for the short term and subject to the conclusion of such agreement, commercial discussions will follow. No final decision has yet been taken.

Assistance to Hydro Electric Potential in Himachal Pradesh

2604. SHRIMATI CHADRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested for allocation of Rs. 40 crore under Central Support Scheme for Survey and Investigation in Himachal Pradesh to harness unexploited Hydro Electric Potential in the State at a faster speed;

(b) if so, the details thereof with pending date of such request;

(c) whether Government propose to take some decision on these requests; and